**MYP2 Humanities**

Humanities aims to inspire global awareness and interest in both the natural and manufactured world. It focuses on the sociological, economical and physical aspects of country development and human demographics.

Humanities encourages students to gain and develop knowledge, conceptual understanding, research skills, analytical and interpretive skills, and communication skills, contributing to the development of the student as a whole. World Studies aims to encourage students to respect and understand the world around them, and to provide a skills based to facilitate further study. This is achieved through the study of individuals, societies and environments in a wide context: historical, contemporary, geographical, political, social, economic, religious, technological and cultural.

The five key concepts of MYP Humanities include: Time, Place & Space, Systems, Global Awareness and Change. Using an inquiry based approach to learning students will investigate issues and topics they are interested in. Questions are encouraged and treated seriously; students will learn that Humanities allows us to inquire about all aspects of our world. A focus of this course will be on the origins of humanity and world geography. Where possible, content in this course will be connected to other courses to allow a more holistic approach to learning.

The MYP 2 curriculum is conveyed using the MYP five areas of interactions. The areas of interactions are: Approaches to Learning, Community and Service, Human Ingenuity, Environment, and Health and Social Education. Students will connect daily to the world through current event analysis and questioning. During the second year of learning students will be introduced to the theme of globalization and its effect on the environment and human ingenuity. A continuous focus throughout the MYP2 program is the direct link between the influence of the past and the production of creations and ideas in the present and future. The skills most stressed in this course are: map reading and creation, inquiring and questioning, developing critical thinking skills, communicating ideas, learning research skills and presentation skills.

**Course Topics**

**The Silk Road**

aspects of cultural expansion and cultural diffusion

archaeological investigations expanding throughout Asia and Europe

analytical investigation of how the Silk Road paved the way for globalization

**Globalization**

cause and effect of global warming

human and environment interactions

globalization components – speeding up of time, improvements in technology, interdependency, interconnection, capital economy and the shrinking of space

**The Renaissance**

awareness of chronology that links people, places and events through time

elements of Renaissance culture and philosophy

influential elements of the Renaissance era from a global perspective

**Industrial and Russian Revolution**

basic short-term and long-term causes of change

positive and negative elements of change

**Current Events**

awareness of global events

investigation and understanding of significant events and their relation to prior knowledge and experience

**Teaching**

Humanities is taught six forty-five minute periods per week. Students are taught and use the inquiry approach to learning. Units are student-centred, focusing on their responses and interest in the central question. Students' questions are therefore not only encouraged, but the key to all learning. Students will question, “why?” and “how?” in addition to learning where and when. As students investigate issues they are interested in, their individual needs as learners will be met through a differentiated approach. Individual, small-group and class work is fundamental to the study of Humanities. As we study and learn about people in the world, so too do we learn about those in our class and ourselves. Technology will be incorporated in lessons when

available and beneficial. Central to the idea of Humanities is discussion and awareness of the world around you. Students will be engaged daily in investigating issues through various means. They will need to think critically and apply their knowledge to create connections and understandings.

**Assessment**

In MYP 2 Humanities all assignments will be assessed using the MYP assessment criteria expressed in rubric form. Not all criterion will be assessed in every assignment. The student will be measured on what he/she can do by using a range of differentiated formative and summative assessments. These include tests and quizzes, graphs, maps, posters, charts journal responses, presentations, discussions and creative projects. A progress report will be sent home at the ends of each trimester.

**Materials**

Students are required to bring an A4 sized notebook to each class. Notes, class work and homework tasks will be organized in this notebook. Paper and worksheets are required to be organized in a pocket folder or binder. Students will need a journal (unspecified-size) to record reflections, current events and classroom discussion topics